



## LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION DEPARTMENT

Steven M. Powell, *International Vice President*  
*Special Assistant to the President*

Via Facsimile

May 19, 2010

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 4213, **"Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010"** (the "Tax Extenders" bill) which is coming to the House floor tomorrow, May 20. This bill contains limited, targeted relief measures to counter the massive losses suffered in the economic crisis of 2008 by every part of the nation's financial infrastructure—including our pension system.

These measures are designed to preserve small businesses' ability to compete and retain the jobs and pension benefits of millions of American workers who rely on multiemployer defined benefit pension plans for their retirement security. It is not another "bailout." To the contrary, it simply provides additional time for employers to meet their funding obligations and by doing so, reduce the amount of contribution increases and/or benefit cuts that would otherwise be imposed to meet those legal funding requirements.

Multiemployer plans are funded by the combined contributions of groups of employers. Those groups may include a few or several thousand employers throughout an industry. Spreading out these long-term obligations will enable tens of thousands of these employers to remain competitive and provide good paying, middle class jobs that generate contributions that fund the plans. This will reduce the risk to all of the stakeholders, whether they are plan participants, sponsors, or the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Every day that passes, pushes this desperately needed relief out of reach for an increasing number of plans that must comply with the Pension Protection Act. Under that law, funding improvement and rehabilitation plans are being adopted that will result in contracts being negotiated with unsustainable contribution rates that cannot be reduced once adopted and that will drive employers out of business and benefits to be cut and then not restored.

UFCW urges your support on this crucial language. No further delays are acceptable. Please vote to pass H.R. 4213.

Sincerely,

International Vice President  
Special Assistant to the President